

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /049 W

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FM AMCONSUL NICE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1039

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

UNCLAS NICE 0026

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, FR, SP

SUBJECT: MEETING OF FRENCH /SPANISH MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. ON JANUARY 17TH, DURING THE COURSE OF A TWO DAY WEEKEND STAY AT HIS COUNTRY HOME IN LE ROURET (A.M.), MINISTER OF INTERIOR MICHEL PONIATOWSKI MET WITH SPANISH VICE PRESIDENT/MINISTER OF INTERIOR FRAGA IRIBARNE.

2. THE AFTERNOON MEETING, HELD AT THE NICE PREFECTURE, LASTED FOR ONE HOUR. IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THE NICE AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO PARIS, PONIATOWSKI SAID, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT PRESENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF CARRYING OUT A PROJECT OF REFORM AND OF PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC LIBERALIZATION WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED WITH ATTENTION, INTEREST, AND SYMPATHY. TOGETHER WITH MR. IRIBARNE, I HAVE STUDIED CERTAIN PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES AND ALSO DIRECTLY CONCERN OUR MINISTRIES.

3. PONIATOWSKI REFUSED TO CONFIRM IF, AMONG THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED, WERE THE BASQUE PROBLEM AND/OR THAT OF SPANISH REPUBLICAN REFUGEES. IN ADDITION, HE REFUSED TO STATE WHETHER THIS MEETING WAS A PRELUDE TO A MEETING OF THE FRENCH AND SPANISH CHIEFS OF STATE EITHER IN MADRID OR IN PARIS. HE ADDED THAT HIS MEETING WITH MR. IRIBARNE

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WAS A PART OF A PLANNED PROGRAM TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS WITH

HIS SPANISH COLEAGUE. HE ADDED THAT THESE CONTACTS COULD NOT HELP
BE FACILITATED BY THE ADOPTION OF THE PROJECT OF
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION BY THE CORTES ON JANUARY 28, 1976.

4. COMMENT - GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE MINSTERS MEETING WAS SO
BRIEF AND THAT PONIATOWSKI DID NOT EVEN OFFER LUNCH TO IRIBARNE,
IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY PONIATOWSKI
WERE DIRECT AND TO THE POINT.

MURPHY

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